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WARTIME EXTENSION WORK

SUMMARY OF EXTENSION WORK, TECHNIQUES, AND RESULTS
BASED ON STATE REPORTS

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Some items in this week's summary:

Increasing use of radio reported by county extension workers.
Labor shortage holds up farm forest products.

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PENNSYLVANIA
January 1, 1945

Radio.-- Use of radio by county extension workers has grown significantly during war. Figures for 5-year period, covering both agriculture and home economics, follow:

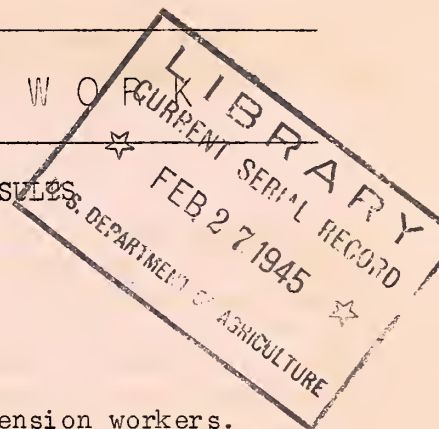
<u>Year</u>	<u>Number of broadcasts</u>
1940	583
1941	695
1942	1,301
1943	1,664
1944	1,995

Summaries for 1944 indicate 33 counties are now doing some broadcasting. One county made 273 broadcasts during year. County workers find that favorable response justifies these broadcasts, particularly during an emergency period.

Soil management.-- County-wide soil-management meetings are now under way in State. These are all-day meetings devoted to means of improving crops through proper soil-management program. In addition to soil conservation, such subjects as grassland farming (including seed production), crop varieties and rotations, farm machinery, permanent pasture improvement, farm management, and farm forestry are topics for meetings. Any one county limits its field to maximum of four lines of work. Subject-matter specialists assist at meetings.

Potatoes.-- Sectional potato production and marketing meetings in 10 districts of Pennsylvania are planned for January and February. These involve all important potato-producing counties. They will be all-day meetings to discuss, with growers, varietal and cultural practices, insect and disease control, and marketing. Specialists in agronomy, entomology, pathology, and marketing will be available for consultation at all meetings. These and soil-management meetings are part of 1945 food-production program of Extension Service.

Farm labor.-- Summary of emergency farm-labor program to December 1, 1944, shows total of 74,340 placements, of which 2,200 were for year-round labor. Program



this year included 18 camps with 2,406 campers. In addition, 1,385 Jamaicans and Newfoundlanders, and 2,618 prisoners of war, were used.

VIRGINIA
December 1, 1944

Farm labor.- During 1944 about 8,000 farmers ordered workers through county agents' offices. Not all farmers were furnished as many workers as they wanted, but most crops were saved without much loss. To November 1944, approximately 28,000 workers have been supplied through farm-labor program. Workers came from 58 different camps. Of these, 10 camps were for foreign labor, 2 for Atlantic Coast migrants, 14 for prisoners of war, 1 WFA, 2 VEV, 3 for mountain people and vacationists, 2 for conscientious objectors, 22 for convicts, and 2 privately operated. Extension Service set up or assisted in setting up 11 camps and placed labor from all 58. County agents devoted average of more than 2 months' work per county to farm labor. Farm-labor personnel gave average of over 4 months per county. About 1,400 year-round workers were supplied through farm-labor program--a small number compared to indicated need. Supply of year-round workers is very short, and comes almost wholly from local communities.

Forest products.- Work has been centered on campaign to stimulate farm production of pulpwood, lumber, and fuelwood through off-season use of farm labor, work stock, and equipment. With coming of winter, Virginia farmers normally turn to woods work in large numbers, but critical farm-labor shortage and high industrial wages have cut into this labor supply sharply. Pulp mills particularly are going into winter with dangerously low inventory on their yards. Arrangements are being made to use prisoners of war in a few areas.

Food conservation.- Emphasis has been placed on importance of storing food. Bulletins on food storage were given out and instruction given in various ways of storing. In Amelia County, demonstration storage house was erected by people of one community with assistance of agent. Amount of food canned shows marked increase over last year.

Agronomy.- Agronomic practices that should be emphasized in 1945 were discussed at annual extension conference. Among these are increased acreage of hybrid corn, alfalfa, and other forage crops; improvement of pastures; seeding of supplementary pastures and cover crops; ordering fertilizer early, and more intelligent use of it; contour tillage and strip cropping. Circular has been prepared to encourage increase in acreage of hybrid corn in 1945; also material on need for ordering fertilizer now.

Animal husbandry.- During month 82 club members carrying meat animal projects were visited. About half of these were pig club members whose projects were judged for awards of dairy heifers and baby chicks. Members were urged to do everything possible to produce good litters, as pig crop in Virginia next spring probably will be much below those of past 2 years. Farmers are being urged not to reduce swine herds too much. Other club members visited are feeding baby beeves for spring shows. Calves are of excellent quality, were purchased at reasonable prices, and as a whole are doing well. Number fed will be nearly double that of last year.

Poultry.- Poultry specialists worked in 16 counties, visited 36 farms, attended 9 meetings at which 1,284 people were present, and held 8 leader-training meetings attended by 58 poultry leaders.